

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 /103 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:JLWASHBURN:JBS

APPROVED BY IO:WBBUFFUM

M:LDBROWN

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S:REWOODS

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R 200202Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T STATE 255696

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, UNRWA

SUBJECT: UNRWA - COMGEN RENNIE VISITS DEPARTMENT:
FINANCING PROBLEMS, RELATIONS WITH PLO

1. UNRWA COMGEN RENNIE MADE HIS REGULAR ANNUAL VISIT TO
WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 11 - 12. IN THE DEPARTMENT HE CALLED
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ON DEPUNSEC BROWN AND ASST SECS BUFFUM AND ATHERTON.

2. AS IN PAST YEARS, RENNIE'S MAIN INTEREST WAS IN PROGRESS OF U.S. REGULAR CONTRIBUTION AND LIKELIHOOD OF A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION. IN ALL THREE MEETINGS, RENNIE WAS TOLD THAT FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION WAS MOVING VERY SLOWLY AND THAT COMPLETION IS STILL SEVERAL MONTHS AWAY. IT WAS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION VERY MUCH UNDER CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF OUR ACUTE AWARENESS OF UNRWA'S IMPENDING FINANCIAL CRISIS AND THE HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING UNRWA'S ACTIVITIES AT PRESENT LEVELS AT LEAST. (RENNIE TOLD BUFFUM THAT UNMET 1975 DEFICIT WOULD REQUIRE END OF PREPARATORY EDUCATION IN APRIL, AND OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN JUNE.) A FINAL DECISION ON A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION,

AND ITS AMOUNT AND TIMING, WOULD DEPEND ON THE PROGRESS AND FINAL FORM OF THE FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION.

3. RENNIE REFERRED ONLY IN PASSING TO PROPOSAL TO SHIFT PART OF UNRWA BUDGET TO REGULAR UN BUDGET AND SAID HE HAD TOLD ARAB PROPONENTS OF THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD NOT SOLVE UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEM. DEPT GUIDANCE THIS ISSUE FOLLOWING SEPTEL.

4. QUESTION OF UNRWA RELATIONS WITH PLO CAME UP BOTH IN DISCUSSION OF UNGA PALESTINE DEBATE AND IN CONNECTION WITH FUND-RAISING. RENNIE SAID THAT OVER THE YEARS UNRWA HAS HAD WORKING CONTACTS WITH FEDAYEEN GROUPS IN THE FIELD. HE HIMSELF HAS TALKED WITH PLO OFFICIALS IN BEIRUT IN MEETINGS FACILITATED BY GOL, AND IN NEW YORK DURING UNGA SESSIONS. RENNIE'S DILEMMA IS THAT HE WANTS TO USE PLO TO OBTAIN MUCH LARGER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ARAB OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS WHILE REALIZING FULLY THAT, AS WAS EMPHASIZED TO HIM, ANY OVERT CONNECTION WITH PLO WOULD TOUCH OFF SHARP REACTION IN U.S. CONGRESS AND VIOLATE UNRWA'S MANDATE AS NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. HE STRESSED THAT HE WANTS NO SUCH CONNECTION FOR UNRWA AND HAS IMPRESSION PLO DOESN'T WANT IT NOW EITHER. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PLO AS SUCH, OR AS PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, MAY SEEK MEMBERSHIP ON UNRWA

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN FUTURE.

5. COMMENT: RENNIE IS CLEARLY VERY SENSITIVE TO ACUTE DANGER FOR UNRWA IN CONTACTS WITH PLO. HOWEVER, HIS JUSTIFIED ANXIETY OVER UNRWA'S FINANCES, AND HOPES FOR PLO HELP IN OBTAINING MONEY FOR UNRWA FROM ARAB OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS CLEARLY IMPEL HIM TO CONSIDER SOME FORM OF INVOLVEMENT WITH PLO DESPITE HIS AWARENESS OF SERIOUS

REPERCUSSIONS HERE. BEIRUT AND USUN SHOULD TAKE EVERY
APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY REMIND RENNIE THAT FORMAL INVOLVE-
MENT WOULD CREATE SHARPLY NEGATIVE REACTION IN CONGRESS
AND SERIOUSLY ENDANGER U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA.
DEPT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CONTINUING TIMELY REPORTING
ON UNRWA/PLO CONTACTS. INGERSOLL

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